CITY OF PROSPECT HEIGHTS
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 14, 2016

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Natural Resources Commission was held in the City Hall Council Chambers, 8 N. Elmhurst Road, Prospect Heights, Illinois.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Acting Chairperson Sievertson.

The following Commissioners were present when the roll was called: P. Hahn, M. Jendreas, E. Madden, and D. Sievertson.

Commissioner J. Kamysz and Chairperson A. Wojnarski were absent.

Also present were City Liaison Peter Falcone, Park District Liaison Christina Ferraro, and resident Chris Mest.

Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of March 10, 2016

Commissioner Sievertson moved, seconded by Commissioner Hahn, to approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of March 10, 2016, as submitted. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Statement of Visitors

Resident Chris Mest explained that he was a retired Certified Arborist who is interested in trees and natural lawn care. He thought perhaps he could give a class at the Park District or Library. Commissioners were in favor of further discussion with Mr. Mest about a future program.

OLD BUSINESS

NRC Journal

The April Journal will be released this week.

Library/Park District Programs

Doug Taron will give a program about "Butterflies of the American Prairie" at the Library on April 19th. Future programs include Chris Anchor presenting "Wildlife of the Chicagoland Area", Kurt Dreisilker from Morton Arboretum, and a Field Museum climate expert.

Com/Ed/Openlands Grant – Update

The Park District is taking the lead on this grant and it will cover the Morava Center and the Slough. Grant results will not be available until June.

Com Ed Prairie – 2016 Plan for mowing & source of equipment

The Park District will do any mowing necessary at the Com Ed Prairie, and equipment that cuts at least 6 inches high will be rented.

Slough – update & results of prescribed burn

Plugs and seeds that were planted last year are starting to show signs of growth.

The March 29th prescribed burn occurred on .6 acres of the Slough area. The burn was successful, but not as complete as the burn crew would have liked due to the patchy fuel. The Fire Department was present. Plans for the future include a small burn in the fall in the wooded area of the Slough, and on the east side in the spring.

Work at Morava

The April 24th Work Day will involve clearing the lower part of the Creek area. This will also be the day of the last brush pile burn.

Intern – report on applications & interviews

Eleven applications have been received and interviews have started. A final decision will be made by April 25th.

Greenhouses

Three greenhouses, owned by Commissioners, are being maintained, along with greenhouse space at Horcher Landscaping and Oakton Community College. 75 species have been planted and only five have not germinated. Extra work days might need to be scheduled in order to accomplish planting all the plugs. Plugs will be planted at the following areas: Slough, Com Ed Prairie, partial side-yard between Police and Fire Departments, Gary Morava wooded area, and possibly Tully Park.

NEW BUSINESS

Turbo Rain System Information

Dana gave a brief description of a solar Turbo Rain System which a friend of his manufactures. The friend agreed to make the system available at a reduced cost to anyone who purchases it as a result of hearing about it from the NRC. He would also be willing to give the NRC a commission on each system sold.

Peter Falcone advised the Commission to get a proposal from the owner of the company, and present it to the City Administrator for review by the City Attorney and City Council.

There was general consensus of the Commissioners to pursue this matter further by obtaining a proposal from the Turbo Rain System Company for presentation at the next Regular Meeting of the NRC. If proposal is approved by the NRC, a recommendation could then be presented to the City Council.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Jendreas, Secretary

Approved by:

Dana Sievertson, Acting Chairperson